

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION TRANSITION INITIATIVES

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) is uniquely equipped to provide fast, flexible assistance to meet Iraq's most critical challenges during its transition and to identify and fill crucial gaps in U.S. government assistance. OTI aims to strengthen public support for peaceful democratic development by giving local populations a growing sense of empowerment and providing quick, tangible improvements in their daily lives.

Activities are primarily implemented through OTI's current partners, Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The design and implementation of OTI activities are closely coordinated with the Coalition Provisional Authority, other USAID efforts, and relevant government agencies to ensure mutual reinforcement of programs and prevent redundancy.

Unique, quick impact grants play an essential role in Iraq, linking short-term emergency programs with longer-term reconstruction. Quick impact grants help governments and citizens rebuild confidence by providing jobs, reconstruction supplies, humanitarian assistance, and functional infrastructure repairs. To date, OTI has approved 350 grants worth \$22.2 million.

Accomplishments

- Re-established the Iraq's public distribution system in less than 30 days. As a result, food or humanitarian crises never materialized after the conflict.
- Engaged local communities to support community projects, such as work initiated by town councils and repairing schools and sports facilities.
- Provided work for 16,000 people in Baghdad's Al Thawra District.
- Supplied water testing equipment, refurbished a fire station, and furnished instructional materials for primary schools in the city of Kirkuk.
- Supplied 49 Ministry-in-a-Box kits—office furniture and supplies that allow 100 people to return to work—to 35 government offices.
 - Rehabilitated and equipped eleven key Iraqi Ministries, including Ministries of Justice, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Labor, Health, and Finance, and headquarters of eight Baghdad municipalities.
 - Created over 20,000 temporary jobs through public sanitation projects in two Baghdad municipalities.
 - Developed emergency communications packages for nine key central government ministries to reconnect them to their local ministry offices in the 18 governorates.